



Department of Medical Assistance Services
600 East Broad Street, Suite 1300
Richmond, Virginia 23219
<http://www.state.va.us/~dmas/dmas.html>

MEDICAID MEMO

MEMO	Special
DATE	5/21/97

TO: Health Maintenance Organizations Providing
Services to Virginia Medicaid Recipients

FROM: Joseph M. Teefey, Director
Department of Medical Assistance Services

SUBJECT: Certification of Coverage Required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
1996 (HIPAA)

Several HMOs under contract with the Department of Medical Assistance Services have inquired about the extent and manner in which Medicaid managed care plans will be required to implement the certification of coverage rules outlined in the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Under the federal law and Virginia's legislation regarding HIPAA, group health plans and health insurance issuers including governmental plans must provide a certification of creditable coverage when an individual is no longer covered by the plan or issuer.

Because of the complexities of enrollment, disenrollment, and transitions between Medicaid plans, the Department will retain the responsibility for issuing the certificates of creditable coverage for all Medicaid recipients, including those enrolled in managed care plans. HMOs under contract to the Department will not be responsible for issuing the certificates of coverage for their Medicaid enrollees.

HMOs who receive such requests for their Medicaid enrollees are asked to forward written requests to the Program Operations Division, Department of Medical Assistance Services, for issuance of the certificate.

"HELPLINE"

The "HELPLINE" is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except State holidays, to answer questions. The "HELPLINE" numbers are:

786-6273
1-800-552-8627

Richmond Area
All Other Areas

Please remember that the "HELPLINE" is for provider use only.